

APPENDIX A

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE REFERENCES

In support of Applicant's petition under MPEP sec. 708.02 III, the following references were found and deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims of the above-identified application and are discussed infra. Copies of the following references accompany this petition.

1. U.S. Patent Number 5,950,176 Keiser et al.
2. U.S. Patent Number 5,918,218 Harris et al.
3. U.S. Patent Number 6,134,535 Belzberg

**1. U.S. Patent Number 5,950,176 Keiser et al. (Keiser)
Sept. 7, 1999**

Keiser discloses a securities trading system that matches buy and sell orders of a security and then generates a market price for the security (see Abstract). A specialist is person who creates a market for a security by matching buyers with sellers and can influence the security's price by being a market participant.

The system described in Keiser reads in the buy order information, column 4 line 53 – column 5 line 19, reads in sell order information, column 5 lines 20-33. The system then generates a market price based upon supply and demand of the security, column 5 lines 1- 19.

If there is a mismatch between buy and sell orders of a give security, the system of Keiser buy or sell the security as a participant to make up the difference.

The present invention on the other hand, allows a user to implement and customize any one of a number of trading strategies by use of plug-ins. Keiser does not disclose or suggest plugging in and executing one or more trading strategies into an engine that provides trading services and therefore, implementing customized trading strategies. The system disclosed in Keiser is merely a virtual specialist or broker.

2. U.S. Patent Number 5,918,218 Harris et al. (Harris), Jun 29, 1999

Harris discloses a method for processing automated trading of mutual funds. The method of Harris allows benefit administrators to buy and sell mutual funds and accounting services to administrators and participants, column 2, lines 31 – 48. The system sends batch or “omnibus” trades to a transfer agent, column 3, lines 15-19. The system then provides an accounting for group of mutual fund trades from transfer agents, column 6, lines 64 – 67. Harris is an order entry and accounting system for mutual funds.

Harris does not disclose a means to detect and execute customized trading strategies within an engine structure. Instead, Harris discloses a system for bundling several mutual fund accounts, sending the orders to a transfer agent and then provides a verification and accounting of the transactions to administrators and fund owners.

3. U.S. Patent Number 6,134,535 Belzberg, Oct. 17, 2000.

Belzberg discloses a graphical user interface (GUI) to select the parameters of a trade and a computerized trading system wherein a list of stocks are read-in from an exchange and entered into a spreadsheet, Figure 4 and column 4 lines 56-62. Stocks are selected from the spreadsheet and then are formulated into an order, id.

Belzberg does not have a plug-in or other means for implementing trading strategies. Instead, the only data that is processed are the shares of stock or stocks to be bought or sold and does not allow customization of trading strategies.

The GUI in Belzberg, allows a user to select parameters such as price and size and transaction types such as buy or sell. However, Belzberg, does not implement multiple trading strategies and is merely an order entry system.